



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND

JEFF BARNES
DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Lansing Central MVTF Office
Lansing, Michigan

May 5, 2015
10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

Board of Trustees and Staff

Chairman John E. James, excused
Vice Chairman Charles Kosal, present
Trustee Robert Williams, present
Trustee Barry Wood, present
Trustee Shawn Wilson, present
Trustee Brandi McBride, present

Lindell Holm, *Director*
Dawn Bollis, *Dept. Analysis*
Mary Kay Robinson, *Financial Supervisor*
Erik Napieralski, *Dept. Tech*
Tom Diaz, *Dept. Tech*

Vice Chairman Charles Kosal called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Notice of Open Meetings Act Compliance

Ms. Robinson stated that the meeting notices were posted pursuant to Public Act 267 of 1976, the Open Meetings Act.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Montgomery from Senator O'Brien's office arrived and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Williams/Wilson) to approve the Public Minutes, of April 14, 2015, passed and carried.

Appeals & Reviews - Reconsideration

There were no personal hearing conducted at the May 5, 2015 emergent need work session. A total of 20 appeals and reviews were considered.

Case RH-1 (Oakland County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$11,700.00; for carpet removal (\$150.00) and foundation repair (\$11,550.00). The Board of Trustees has reviewed your request for assistance and determined that your situation does not constitute an unforeseen circumstance creating a financial emergency. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that a payment schedule can be arranged with existing income and that sufficient income and/or assets are available to meet necessary expense(s).

Case RR-2 (Oakland County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$5,350.00 for a new roof. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume his financial responsibilities. The financial statement also reveals that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve. Previous grant assistance has not resolved the applicant's situation.

Case A-3 (Wayne County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$1,350.93 for mortgage. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume his financial responsibilities. The financial statement also disclosed that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case A-4 (Oakland County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$5,500.00 for rent. The Board of Trustees has reviewed your request for assistance and determined that your situation does not constitute an unforeseen circumstance creating a financial emergency. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that sufficient income and/or assets are available to meet necessary expense(s). Previous grant assistance has not resolved the applicant's situation.

Case A-5 (Ingham County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$22,616.00; for dental implants (\$16,326.00) and dentures and attachments (\$6,290.00). A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that sufficient income and/or assets are available to meet necessary expense(s). The statement also disclosed that a payment schedule can be arranged with existing income.

Case RR-6 (Lake County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$3,928.00 for dental work. A grant is not approved to cover the cost of the requested dental work because a medical emergency or health problem that actually threatens the health or income, or both, of the applicant has not been demonstrated. The Board of Trustees has reviewed your request for assistance and determined that your situation does not constitute an unforeseen circumstance creating a financial emergency.

Case RH-7 (Ingham County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees reviewed your request and disapproved your application for \$5,685.74; for mortgage (\$1,571.04), heat and electric (\$344.70) and furnace (\$3,770.00). A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume his financial responsibilities. The financial statement also reveals that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case A-8 (Sanilac County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$5,112.56 for mortgage. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume his financial responsibilities. The financial statement also reveals that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case RR-9 (Kalamazoo County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$1,225.00 for a hot water heater. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve. Previous grant assistance has not resolved the applicant's situation.

Case RR-10 (Marquette County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$699.56 for fuel oil. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume his financial responsibilities. The statement also revealed that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case A-11 (Wayne County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees reviewed your request and disapproved your application for \$4,500.00 for a new roof. The Board of Trustees has reviewed your request for assistance and determined that your situation does not constitute an unforeseen circumstance creating a financial emergency. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that a payment schedule can be arranged with existing income. The statement also disclosed that sufficient income and/or assets are available to meet necessary expenses.

Case A-12 (Wayne County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$875.00 for rent. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case A-13 (Kalamazoo County)

APPROVED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application authorizing no more than \$1,745.00 to be used for new dentures.

Case A-14 (Lake County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$7,071.00; for Federal income taxes (\$5,765.00) and State income taxes (\$1,306.00). The Board of Trustees has reviewed your request for assistance and determined that your situation does not constitute an unforeseen circumstance creating a financial emergency. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume his financial responsibility. The statement also disclosed that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve. The Board of Trustees recommends that you contact the MSU Law School, Low income taxpayer clinic (517-336-8088 option 4) for assistance with your tax bills.

Case A-15 (Wayne County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$1,200.00 for rent. A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case A-16 (Wayne County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for \$2,939.26; for new tires (\$439.26) and auto repairs (\$2,500.00). The Board of Trustees has reviewed your request for assistance and determined that your situation does not constitute an unforeseen circumstance creating a financial emergency.

Case RH-17 (Ingham County)

APPROVED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees reviewed your request and approved your application authorizing no more than \$3,250.00 for the remaining completed roof balance.

Case RH-18 (Berrien County)

PARTIAL

- The MVTF Board of Trustees reviewed your request and partially approved your application authorizing no more than \$3,000.00 towards a furnace and a/c unit. The remaining balance of \$5,083.00 will be paid by you. Trustee Williams abstained from vote.

Case RH-19 (Berrien County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees reviewed your request and disapproved your application for \$1,866.60; for plumbing repairs (\$1,250.00) and water utilities (\$616.60). A close review of the applicant's financial statement reveals that sufficient income and/or assets are available to meet necessary expense(s). The statement also disclosed that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

Case A-20 (Saginaw County)

DENIED

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for heat and electric (\$4,110.72). A close review of the applicant's disclosed financial statement reveals that there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would enable the applicant to resume her financial responsibilities. The statement also disclosed that the applicant's situation requires a more long term solution than the Trust Fund is designed to resolve.

A MOTION (Wood/McBride) to accept the attached decisions that were made in the closed session, passed and carried.

The total amount authorized for emergency grants approved was 3/20 for **\$7,995.00**. Approved 1/11 Appeals for (\$1,745.00), 2/5 Review/Housing for (\$6,250.00), 0/0 Review/Medical for (\$0.00), 0/0 Review/Conflict of Interest for (\$0.00), 0/4 Review/Repetitive for (\$0.00) and 0/0 Review/Other for (\$0.00).

Accounting Report

None

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration

None

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

A MOTION (Wilson/McBride) to accept the following appointment and re-appointment passed and carried.

The **American Legion** recommends the following **new appointment**:

| Name | County | Term of Service |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Phillip Kerns | Cheboygan – IND | 12-31-2018 |

The **DAV** recommends the following **reappointment**:

| Name | County | Term of Service |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| John Manninen | Houghton-Keweenaw | 12-31-2017 |

The **VFW** recommends the following **new appointment**:

| Name | County | Term of Service |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| William Beethen | Cheboygan | 12-31-2018 |

Recommendation of the **New Independent** reappointment:

| Name | County | Term of Service |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Michael Timmons | Barry | 12-31-2018 |

Unfinished Business

Director Holm has been in contact with the VFW National Home for Children regarding scheduling the Board of Trustee meeting to be held at their location on June 2, 2015.

Director Holm informed the Board of Trustees of the training dates for June and July. Vice-chair Kosal suggested that the training for the July be moved to the 7th so the Board of Trustees can hold their meeting at that location and then attend the training sessions, all Board of Trustees agreed.

New Business

Board of Trustees reviewed the new language for policies #104, #108, #109 and Policy #303.

A MOTION (Williams/Wilson) to accept the new language for BTP #104, #108, #109 and #303, passed and carried

Director Holm informed the Trustee's that the Agency is working with 'Project Hope', a financial counseling service that will be offered to veterans in person and/or online.

Director Holm informed the Trustees of the second training session with Community Mental Health that will be held on May 18, 2015.

Director Holm informed the Trustees of the May 20, 2015 event in which the Boy Scouts will be placing flags on the graves in Grand Rapids for Memorial Day.

MVTF Board Activities

Board Trustee Williams stated he would be attending the VFW Convention on June 5th & 6th and would like an updated report.

Board Trustee Wood stated he would be attending the American Legion Convention and would also like an updated report.

Vice-chair Kosal requested that Director Holm attend a CORE Program his company will be having on June 5, 2015 in Detroit. This program will assist veterans with resumes, career transition labs, etc. and in the afternoon a panel will discuss veteran's issues with the attendees.

MVTF Staff Activities

Director Holm informed the Board of Trustees that he has received invitations to attend the VFW Convention and the DAV Convention and both are being held at the same times so he will be attending only one of the conventions.

Good of the Order

None

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 11:06 am

Approved:

John James, Chairman

Date